

## NOSTALGIA

# PM turns down chance to meet villagers but there are ghostly visits

**MIKE PETTY AND JAMES MILNER LOOK THROUGH THE CAMBRIDGE NEWS ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES FROM THIS DAY IN THE PAST**

## PR company moves into mill - 1986

CHESTERTON Mill, in French's Road, was built in 1847 but has stood derelict for the last 30 years.

The eight-sided smock mill was only partially successful when driven by wind so the sails were removed in the 1890s and it was subsequently driven by steam, suction gas and diesel.

It has now been renovated and starts a new lease of life as the home of Cambridge public relations firm Beveridge Kartupelis.

## Villagers 'content' under Tories - 1980

THE Isle of Ely Member of Parliament, Clement Freud, asked Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher whether she had plans to visit Grunty Fen where people were worried about the level of wage settlements.

But she replied that the 97 residents were a very happy agricultural community with a low rate of unemployment and content under a Conservative government.

Dorothy Barker of Station Road, Grunty Fen, said: "It is nice of her to think of us."

## Eagerly anticipated Sunday schools - 1943

ALTHOUGH, taken as a whole,



Chesterton Mill was built in 1847

Sunday school anniversary services are not what they used to be, it is interesting to know that, in some parts of the country, the event is just as eagerly anticipated and special hymns are practised for weeks before the event.

The Methodist Sunday school anniversary at Meldreth attracts child lovers from many miles around and a special feature is the performing of a little playlet at the afternoon service.

Each child is given a part to play, thus creating an interest in the Sunday school which

is not soon forgotten. A north countryman staying in the village told a correspondent that people at his home look on the children's anniversaries as very special events, but in this case, children and teachers parade their district and sing hymns in the streets before the service.

Each denomination has its own special district and neither encroaches on the other even though each anniversary is on a different Sunday.

He told how all the children were "decked out" and of the rivalry for each district to "out-deck" the other. About four members of a local band - usually Church Army or Salvation Army - volunteered to lead the singing.

Collections for Sunday school funds are taken at each stopping place and, my correspondent was informed, amounted to anything between £100 and £150

## Ghostly appearances at midnight - 1935

CATHERINE Parsons said people believed that midnight was the hour when ghosts would be seen.

No one would pass the Roman road crossing to Streetley End for fear of being pelted with large things



Ghosts reported in Horseheath were said to be harmless

like apple dumplings.

But Horseheath ghosts were quite harmless and included a poor girl whose coming was heralded by a sound like buzzing bees, three headless women dressed in black

who wandered in from camps and a headless man with a red handkerchief around his neck.

The finest spectacle was a coffin borne up Limbery's Hill followed by a long procession of mourners.



Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher visited Ely in 1986

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